*from* Teaching the Multiparagraph Essay • Jane Schaffer

Peer Response

Sample Student Essay

The following first draft was written by a ninth-grade student on the following assignment on *Romeo and Juliet.* It is typed as written.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ROMEO AND JULIET | “The Valid and the Helpful” |
| Juliet is only 14, but by meeting Romeo, she virtually becomes an adult. Her attitude changes dramatically as does her outward appearance. | 1. Who are Juliet and Romeo? 2. Why and how does she become an adult by meeting Romeo? 3. What was her attitude before? after? 4. What was her outward appearance before? after? |
| Through the start of Shakespeare’s play “Romeo and Juliet” Juliet is constantly being pressured by others to get married and find the right person for herself. She doesn’t know what to do about the unwanted pressure because she hasn’t really found the right man and she doesn’t want to be forced into anything. | 1. Who is pressuring Juliet to get married? 2. Why is she being forced to marry? 3. Why is she getting married so young? |
| When she meets Romeo, her atitude shifts toward him. She can never stop thinking of him. This change brought about happiness, because her search for him had ended, yet it also brought about misfortune, because it was apparent that there would be trouble with them being in different families. Juliet eventually becomes so obsessed with his presence, that she is willing to do anything to stay with him, even kill herself. This was the very sad part of her change. She was unable to control it, and her love for Romeo backfired. | 1. How does her attitude shift? 2. What examples from the story show she can’t stop thinking of him? 3. What is the change that brought about happiness? 4. What misfortune happened? 5. Why would there be trouble because they were in different families? 6. Did they get married or not? 7. What wasn’t she able to control? |
| Juliets change was an important one. It gave “Romeo and Juliet,” happiness, theme, and tragedy. | 1. Why was the change an important one? 2. What themes did it give *Romeo and Juliet*? 3. What tragedy took place? 4. How did the change give people happiness? |